

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 05400 080217Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-02 ICA-20 SP-02 HA-05 /054 W

-----058556 090026Z /21

R 071934Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2207

UNCLAS KINGSTON 5400

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PGOV, GU

SUBJECT: DAILY GLEANER PAGE ONE EDITORIAL

1. JULY 6 DAILY GLEANER HEADLINED AS "SHAMEFUL" GUYANA  
ELECTION PROCEDURES. TEXT OF THE EDITORIAL FOLLOWS:

"PRIME MINISTER FORBES BURNHAM OF GUYANA AND HIS GOVERNMENT HAVE  
IGNORED ALL PLEAS TO THINK AGAIN, AND THE CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUM  
WILL TAKE PLACE ON MONDAY, JULY 10. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT MR.  
BURNHAM'S MANIPULATION OF THE OVERSEAS ELECTORAL LISTS WILL ASSURE  
HIM THE USUAL VICTORY. INDEED HIS GOVERNMENT HAS SHOWN ITS  
CONTEMPT FOR THE ELECTORATE BY CREATING THE SYMBOL OF A HOUSE  
SUGGESTING SECURITY FOR THE "YES" VOTERS AND THAT OF A RAT (A  
DESERTER) FOR THE "NO" VOTERS.

"THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION WHICH CONTROLS THE PRESS REGIDLY HAS  
CONTINUED TO GIVE ONLY A ONE-SIDED PICTURE OF THE REFERENDUM ISSUES,  
AND HAS HAD THE GALL TO STATE THAT PEOPLE HAVING SEEN THE REPORTS  
OF THE ARGUMENTS IN THE PRESS NO LONGER OPPOSE THE REFERENDUM.

"OVERSEAS GUYANESE IN JAMAICA HAVE RECEIVED THEIR BALLOT  
PAPERS - AND DESPITE ASSURANCE THAT THE BALLOT IS SECRET, IT IS  
OBVIOUS THAT IT WON'T BE, AND THE GOVERNMENT WILL KNOW EXACTLY  
WHO VOTED AND HOW.

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"WE REPEAT OUR ALARM THAT A GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO USE ITS CONTROL  
OVER A CORRUPT ELECTORAL SYSTEM TO REMOVE THE SAFEGUARDS IN THE  
CONSTITUTION REQUIRING AN APPEAL TO THE VOTERS WHEN THE SYSTEM OF  
GOVERNMENT OR OF ELECTIONS IS TO BE CHANGED. THIS AMOUNTS TO A RAPE  
OF DEMOCRACY WHICH WILL SHAME ALL THOSE WHO STILL BELIEVE THAT  
DEMOCRACY IS POSSIBLE IN THE CARIBBEAN.

"IT IS SHOCKING THAT A GOVERNMENT WHICH HAS STATED THAT IT RUNS A SOCIALIST CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC SHOULD SEEK TO GUARANTEE ITS HOLD ON POWER BY DEPRIVING THE PEOPLE OF PARTICIPATION - THE PEOPLE IT CLAIMS IT WISHES TO SERVE.

"IN DESPERATION, AND FRUSTRATION OVER THEIR INADEQUACY AGAINST THE MIGHT OF A CORRUPT ELECTORAL MACHINERY, OPPOSITION FORCES WHICH INCLUDE MARXISTS, LEFTISTS, AND RIGHTISTS HAVE NOW CALLED FOR A BOYCOTT OF THE REFERENDUM - WHICH IN EFFECT IS A FORMAL CONCEDING OF THE ELECTION TO MR. BURNHAM.

"WE HERE IN JAMAICA CAN TAKE NO COMFORT FROM THE ELOQUENT SILENCE OF OUR OWN GOVERNMENT, OPPOSITION, AND CHURCH AND COMMUNITY LEADERS ON SUCH A GRAVE DEVELOPMENT."

IRVING

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUM  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Disposition Event:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Subject:** DAILY GLEANER PAGE ONE EDITORIAL  
**TAGS:** PGOV, SOPN, PINT, GY  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014